



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/477,297	01/04/2000	JAMES R. TIGHE	062891.0381	9048

7590 07/27/2005

BAKER & BOTTS LLP  
2001 ROSS AVENUE  
DALLAS, TX 75201

EXAMINER
----------

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SM

<b>Communication Re: Appeal</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/477,297	TIGHE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Steven Blount	2661	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

1. ☐ The Notice of Appeal filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is not acceptable because:
  - (a) ☐ it was not timely filed.
  - (b) ☐ the statutory fee for filing the appeal was not submitted. See 37 CFR 41.20(b)(1).
  - (c) ☐ the appeal fee received on \_\_\_\_\_ was not timely filed.
  - (d) ☐ the submitted fee of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is insufficient. The appeal fee required by 37 CFR 41.20(b)(1) is \$\_\_\_\_\_.
  - (e) ☐ the appeal is not in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31(a)(1) in that no claim has been twice rejected.
  - (f) ☐ a Notice of Allowability, PTO-37, was mailed by the Office on \_\_\_\_\_.
  
2. ☒ The appeal brief filed on 5/16/2005 is NOT acceptable for the reason(s) indicated below:
  - (a) ☐ the brief and/or brief fee is untimely. See 37 CFR 41.37(a).
  - (b) ☐ the statutory fee for filing the brief has not been submitted. See 37 CFR 41.20(b)(2).
  - (c) ☐ the submitted brief fee of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is insufficient. The brief fee required by 37 CFR 41.20(b)(2) is \$\_\_\_\_\_.
  - (d) ☒ *Claim rejections (6, 14, 26, 31) UNaddressed.*

The appeal in this application will be dismissed unless corrective action is taken to timely submit the brief and requisite fee. See 37 CFR 41.37(a)(1). Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). See 37 CFR 41.37(e).
  
3. ☐ The appeal in this application is DISMISSED because:
  - (a) ☐ the statutory fee for filing the brief as required under 37 CFR 41.20(b)(2) was not timely submitted and the period for obtaining an extension of time to file the brief under 37 CFR 1.136(a) has expired.
  - (b) ☐ the brief was not timely filed and the period for obtaining an extension of time to file the brief under 37 CFR 1.136(a) has expired.
  - (c) ☐ a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (d) ☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_.
  
4. ☐ Because of the dismissal of the appeal, this application:
  - (a) ☐ is abandoned because there are no allowed claims.
  - (b) ☐ is before the examiner for final disposition because it contains allowed claims. Prosecution on the merits remains CLOSED.
  - (c) ☐ is before the examiner for consideration.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. The examiner regrets to inform the applicant that the brief filed on 5/16/2005 is defective.

The brief does not contain an argument which specifies the errors in the rejection and the specific limitations in the rejected claims, if appropriate, or other reasons, which cause the rejection to be in error.

More specifically, claims 6, 14, 26, and 31, which were finally rejected on 1/12/2005, are not addressed in the applicants brief.

The examiner notes that 37 CFR 1.192(d) requires that applicant file an amended brief which complies with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.192(c) within a period of 1 month. See also section 1206 of the MPEP.

If the examiner can be of any assistance in this manner, he may be contacted at the number listed below.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Blount whose telephone number is 571 - 272 - 3071. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Chau Nguyen, can be reached on 571 - 272 - 3126. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2661

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Ajit Patel  
Primary Examiner

SB



7/18/05